

be reformed and brought into the 21st century. Politicians using scare tactics and acting like demagogues won't accomplish anything. Let's be responsible and confront the issue. And, solve it.

OPPOSITION TO THE DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Defense appropriations bill, especially given the priorities currently being established in Congress.

Now that the cold war is over, why do we continue to spend \$100 billion a year to defend Europe and Asia against a nonexistent enemy, while at the same time this Congress proposes major cut-backs in Medicare and Medicaid?

Why are we continuing to fund the absurd star wars program, but make disastrous cuts in student loans and education, the future of America?

Why are we expanding the B-2 program at over \$1 billion a plane, when the Pentagon has not even asked for any more planes, but we are cutting back on school nutrition programs and child care?

Why are we not cutting the CIA and the other intelligence programs now that the Soviet Union does not exist, but instead are cutting back on Head Start?

CONGRESS MUST BALANCE THE BUDGET AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(Mr. ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, in the next few weeks, after decades of fiscal irresponsibility, Congress will at last face up to its fundamental duty to balance the Federal budget. Not since 1969 have Federal expenses matched Federal revenues. Since then, we have compiled a national debt that bears down on our economy like a lead weight, the new Republican Congress is owning up to its commitment to balance the budget as a matter of moral obligation to future generations.

In addition, we are serious about saving the Medicare system. This is not a partisan issue—the President's own Cabinet Secretaries tell us the system is going bankrupt. Republicans find that unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, and our plan will strengthen and preserve Medicare for the sake of America's seniors.

Years ago, Ronald Reagan asked, "If not us, who? If not now, when?" Mr. Reagan's questions still resonate today. For the sake of our children and our parents, we will balance the budget and strengthen Medicare.

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SUPPORT FOR U.N. CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN [CEDAW]

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today women from around the globe are meeting in Beijing.

The U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women, despite all of its problems, is turning out to be a testament to the will and determination of women who seek to create a better world for one-half of the world's population. Women today, in Beijing, are taking a stand for women.

Today, in these Chambers, I am asking my colleagues in the House of Representatives to take a stand for women. Today, I am introducing a resolution to urge the Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, also known as CEDAW.

I hope that the next century will be the first century in the history of humanity where women are not faced with Government sanctioned discrimination. My resolution will be a step in that direction.

I look forward to the Congress of the United States approving my resolution.

WHY I SUPPORT THE B-2 PROGRAM

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the B-2 amendment. Like my colleagues I have taken a hard look at the B-2 program. In fact, I have gone out of my way to find a reason to vote against the B-2. I came to Washington to cut the deficit and eliminate wasteful programs. I voted against the space station because in my opinion the program did not make sense in the current budget environment.

The same cannot be said for the B-2. The truth is, that I have been unable to find a compelling reason to justify halting this program at 20 planes. The B-2, with its unprecedented combination of stealth, range, and payload is precisely the kind of technologically advanced weapon in which the Congress should invest.

A single B-2 has the ability to complete a mission that would require many more conventional aircraft. This in turn puts far fewer lives at risk. During the Gulf War the stealthy F-117 flew only 2 percent of the missions but hit 40 percent of the targets. The stealthy B-2 has a far greater capability than the F-117. We must keep our technological edge as we move toward the 21st century. The B-2 stealth bomber is the weapon that can meet future challenges.

REPUBLICANS' MEDICARE PLAN DOES NOT MAKE SENSE

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Last month, Mr. Speaker, I listened to Ohioans in the 13th Congressional District in a town meeting in Newton Falls, at county fairs in Medina County, Portage County, at a supermarket in Sheffield Lake. People could not believe the Republicans' plan to cut \$270 million in Medicare and at the same time turn around and give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans of the same amount. I say to my colleagues, if you make \$300,000 a year, you save \$20,000 a year of your taxes under the Republican plan, while, as a Medicare beneficiary, it will cost you \$1,000 a year. If you are paying right now as a Medicare beneficiary a premium of about \$46 a month, under the Republican plan you will pay somewhere in the vicinity of \$110 a month.

Mr. Speaker, that extra \$60 or \$70 may not sound like much per month to a Member of Congress. But if my colleagues are making \$10,000 or \$12,000 a year, and they are retired, on Social Security, paying that extra several hundred dollars, \$700 or \$800 a year, for medical care is an absolute back breaker, and it does not make sense, Mr. Speaker, to make Medicare beneficiaries pay a thousand dollars more a year, all so they can give tax breaks to the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, it does not make sense.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT TODAY DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit today while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the 5-minute rule: the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on National Security, the Committee on Resources, the Committee on Science, the Committee on Small Business, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

Mr. WISE. Reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. The Democrat leadership has been consulted and has no objections to these requests.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?